THE TRANSIT OF VENUS.

A LECTURE BY PROF. C. A. YOUNG. OBJECT AND METHODS OF OBSERVING THE TRANSIT COUNTRY-THE DAY OF THE TRANSIT-THE WORK

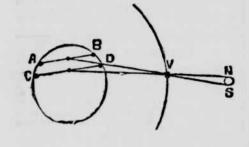
AND ITS RESULTS. A very large audience assembled in the great hall of the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, last evening, to hear Prof. C. A. Young's lecture on "The Observations of the Transit of Venus." In introducing Prof. Young President Morton explained that he wrote to Prof. Young asking him to lecture. The letter reached the Professor just as he was leaving Peking. As he was coming directly home be did not answer the letter, but wrote accepting the invitation while on the Pacific, near the American shore. As soon as the letter was received-three days ago-President Morton telegraphed to Prof. Young to come immediately. "So," concluded the President, "the scheme that was proposed in Peking and perfected in the Pacific, is about to be consummated to-night." Prof. Young then delivered the following lecture, which was profusely illustrated by diagrams reproduced on a screen:

THE LECTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I regret very much that I could not have bad more time to give to the preparation of my lecture before coming before this audi-ence. You are all aware what this transit of Venus is, I need not spend time on that. Occasionally an interior planet is passing around the sun-seen on the disk of the sun as a small black spot. This happens in the revclusions of the planet Venus. Thirteen revolutions of her's very pearly equal eight of the revolutions of the earth. The order is two transits in pairs, eight years apart. The period of revolution is not in proportion, as I have indicated, varying somewhat in point of fre-

There have occurred only four transits of Venus since the period of observations began. The first, in 1631, was seen by nobody as far as we can ascertain. It was visible in China, as was this last one. That in 1639 was observed by two persons in England. The transits of 1761 and and 1769 were observed with very great care by parties dispatched from London; and Rittenhouse of Philadelphia made some important observations. The Philadelphia made some important observations. The interest in the transit does not lie in the thing itself. It is a mere black spot passing across the face of the sun. The recent transit was so much shaded by clouds that it could be seen without the aid of the telescope. There is nothing of interest in the phenomenon itself. There is no magnificent seene. Why then so much paiss in its observation! By it we are enabled to determine the sun's parallax, or the distance from the earth to the sun, and that enters into nearly all our astronomical calculations. It is the base line of nearly all our celestial measures of distances. Our knowledge of the solar system depends on the knowledge of the parallax of the sun. Accordingly astronomers have been on the qui size to determine its quantity.

The transit of last December was observed by hundreds of persons sent out for the purpose from all rests of the world. The United States sent eight parallax the world.



And now as to the manner in which the transit of Venus enables us to solve this problem. Supposing that the earth is here (referring to the diagram), and two observers on the earth are placed one at the upper point (N) and the other at the lower (S), and Venus (V) between the earth and the sun. You can see at once that the observer at the lower point will perceive the planet at this point (A), while the observer at the upper end will see her here (C). In other words, the black spot which Venus appears to be upon the sun will hold different positions, according to the position of the observer. Now astronomy informs us with extreme accuracy—certainly not 1-10,000th part out of the way—of the relative distance from one of these points to the other. It does not tell what the distance is, but it tells us that one of these distances is about 2-6-10 times as great as the other. The observations of the transit tell us precisely this thing when they fix the positions of those two spots occupied by the planet at the same instant of time. Observation can be devised to tell us how far apart those spots are, it is all we want.

Now the methods of procedure are quite different.

Want. Now the methods of procedure are quite different. There are three principal kinds. In the last century Now the methods or preceding it inds. In the last century only one was employed. The observation then consisted simply of noting the times when the planet touched the edge of the sun and left it. Suppose one

sisted simply of noting the times when the planet touched the edge of the sun and left it. Suppose one observer stood at the South and one at the North; the one at the North will see the beginning of the transit earlier than the other, and the difference in duration being noticed, it will at once be possible to compute the length of this line across the sun's disk representing the path of the planet. Another method is to observe the time merely of the beginning and ending without any reference to the duration. If one station was further east than the other, the person east would see the planet in the sky apparently further to the west, and the transit would therefore begin later than the other, and if the distance between the two observers was known, and the rate of motion of the planet known, as it is, that would enable them to make the proper calculations. Another is by photography, and another by means of the heliometer.

Allow me, however, to show you how the planet appeared as passing the sun—its dimensions compared with the sun. Here a diagram of the Sun and Venns passing was exhibited. It should be a little indistinct around the edge, as the Sun aiways is. You see the black spot appearing here, about 1-32d of the dimension was very nearly as far from the center of the sun as-this is, perhaps a little nearer to the edge. The motion was such that it occupied about five hours in passing. If the edge of the sun were sharply defined, and the edge of the planet also, it would be possible to note with great exactness the moment the labet approaches the edge there is developed the "black drop," or igament, about which there is so much discussion, where a patch seems to be raised on the sun's edge to meet the edge of Venus, and it is therefore very difficult to determine the exact moment of contact. I am happy to say that the contact was pretty sharp as seen by most of the observers of the transit, and there was very little of the "black drop," appearance. There was, however, fully half a minute during which the

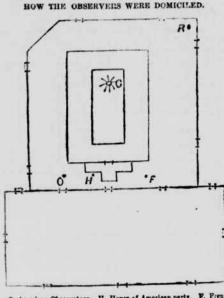


Now, as to the second mode of procedure—by the photograph. Arrangements are made for photographing the disk no the sun, giving the disk in which the photograph or negative would appear perfectly black and the planet a white spot. Close to the plate on which he photograph is formed is placed a glass plate ruled to these carefully measured. During the time of the trappet photographs are taken from moment to moin lines, carefully measured. During the time of the transit photographs are taken from moment to moment, for instance, Prof. Peters in New-Zealand obtained something over 200 in the course of the transit. Supposing they are taken in that way at New-Zealand and also at Peking we can compare them afterwards and obtain the desired results. The Peking photograph will show the planet at a slightly different position from the New-Zealand one. If then the photographs can be

light is thrown by a moving mirror upon the camera, and there is photographed. PECULIARITIES OF PEKING.

Now as to the observation and the party with which I was connected. It was under the charge of Prof. Wat--CURIOUS FEATURES ABOUT PEKING-CHINESE son, and started from Chicago the very morning after ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS-A TRIP INTO THE the second fire. We left the city smoking in ruins. We sailed from San Francisco on the 28th of August, passing on in a man-of-war to the mouth of the river Peiho. From there we journeved as they ordinarily journey in Northern China, to a small city of 30,000 or 40,000 inhabitants, near by Peking; and from thence we entered the city of Peking itself. The main city of Peking, known as the Tartar City, is in the form of a square. It is cut off at one corner, as is the enstom of the country, for the Chinese will not have anything a perfect square. They give no reason for this, only that it is as the Chinese always do, and have done. It is about four niltes on each side, fully four miles east and west, but a little less north and south. The whole is surrounded by a wall. The angles are not opposite each other, for that would be opposite to Chinese notions. The wall with which it is surrounded is from 40 to 60 feet high, by about 40 feet in width at the top. At regular intervals around the wall are placed large towers, which are represented very roughly on the screen. In all respects the city is fortified in a manner which would be very annoying to any person who might try to break in. At least the British found it so in their attempts some years since take the city. satled from San Francisco on the 28th of August, passing

take the city. Inside of this city is an interior city, about two miles Inside of this city is an interior city, about two missing in length by one and one-half miles in width. That is also surrounded by a wall. Peking has nothing to recommend it except that it is the capital of an empire. The Tartar City is largely inhabited by persons of military distinction; not, however, to the exclusion of others. Inside of this is what is known as the Forbidden. ers. Inside of this is what is known as the Formulaer City, which is about one and a quarter miles in length by one and a half in width. Inside of this place are beld the reheious services, and here are situated the temples and various buildings devoted to worship. South of this is what is known as the Chinese City, surrounded by a wall shown in the diagram.



Our residence was—where we were domiciled—in a house connected with the American Episcopal Mission; the French situation was to the east and the Russian the French situation was to the east and the Russian a little to the north of us. Our house was distant from the observatory about three-quarters of a mile. I will say for the city that although there are many things disagreeable and not pleasant to the eye, yet there is generally good order; and I felt safer in going through the streets of Peking at midnight than I would in our own. The other localities of importance were the Tomple of Heaven and the Temple of Agriculture. On the eastern side of the city, near the lower gate, the old Chinese observatory founded by the Jesuits, in which are many old-fashioned instruments which were in use before the days of our modern telescope. Of these there are only three which are of any size as compared with our more recent instruments. And now as to the arrangement of our instruments. I don't know as they will be specially interesting, and yet you may wish to know how things were placed. Our home was in the station of the American Episcopal Mission of the English Church. The ground which was inhabited by our party was about 150 feet in length by 100 in width. In our observatory was our equatorial dial, driven by clock-work, with the usual necessary instruments attached. Mirrors reflected the rays of the sun to the new photograph house. We had a meridian observatory and a smaller telescope, with spectroscope attached. There was a magnetic station in one corner of the yard. little to the north of us. Our house was distant from

THE INSTRUMENTS USED. Now, as to the process of obtaining photographs, in stead of a telescope opening upon the sun, we had the object glass of the telescope fixed with a focal distance of 40 feet. By means of mechanism we were enabled to throw the sun's rays through the lens. The mirror by which the rays were thrown was not silvered, which was a very unfortunate thing, for as the sky was clouded we did not have enough light. Only with a clear sky is it better to have the mirror unsilvered. The manipulation of the instrument was very simple; it only required that a person standing near the post of the instrument should throw the light up the post upon a

instrument should throw the light up the post upon a screen, and as the image was formed, by turning a spring to one side he caused a slit to open, making an expesure of about one-quarter of a second.

The equatorial instruments used by our observers were made rather small, for the sake of portability. The French had the largest and finest they could get, and procured the making of a set precisely alike, so that their observations can be compared with greater certainty and confidence. A uniform set of instrument is a great advantage to the observer. The instrument that is known as a "transit instrument"—not that it has is a great advantage to the observer. The instrument that is known as a "transit instrument"—not that it has anything to do, per se, with the transit of Venns, but is used in noting the movements of stars—is a somewhat curiously constructed instrument, and gave us considerable trouble. Using it, one has to look North and point South to see West. Little observatories were taken out which were put up for us at Washington. We took all our instruments with us, and all these things were transported, suspended on poles on the shoulders of Coolles. For observations of the time we used the chronograph. A pen is ingeniously arranged and adjusted on paper, and when the observer touches a key it indientes the precise minute of the observation. Whenever we wanted to determine the time of an observation accurately, the chronograph was set in motion vation accurately, the chronograph was set in motion and the operator touched the key at the precise moment. THE WORK UNDERTAKEN.

Our work in the observatory consisting in determining the latitude and longitude of the place with great care, ascertaining the rate of our clock, and in determining the exact position of our photographic telescope. So that we were obliged to observe the stars every pight, so as to ascertain the position of the telescope, and next day if possible to observe the photographic telescope, and note its position. The weather was exceedingly clear, so that we got tired of it before we were through. Our instruments were set 75 nights. The sky of Peking, a city 200 feet above the sea. Is wonderfully and for observations. Indeed I could see little difference between the telescope at Peking and what it was at Sherman, 8,000 feet above the sea. Wind and dist were our greatest enemies, the sand being drivon in through the cracks everywhere, making it difficult to keep the machines in order. Our daily life was much after this manner: In the morning, after breakfast, we would go up and take a photograph of the sun, if possible, and along in the afternoon observe the magnetics, and in the evening make our star observations—getting home about 2 o'clock in the morning. We have 150 determinations of institude, and 40 or 50 occultations of stars. that we were obliged to observe the stars every night,

SCENES IN PEKING. The streets in Peking differ from those of other Chi-less towns, being very wide—as broad even, I believe, as Pennsyvania ave. in Washington. The streets are so raised in the center by the fifth and accumulations of centuries, that they are higher than the sidewalks, or where the foot-passengors walk. Between the side-walks and the street there are booths and shanties, and these present a very busy appearance, filled with jugglers, story-tellers, merchants, and traders. There are some very pleasant grounds in Peking in connection with the imperial palace. Across an artificial lake one of the Buddnist houses of worship is seen in the distance. Viewing the same ground from another point, there is seen a marble bridge passing into the prohibited city. I don't know how old the marble bridge is—some five or six hundred years, I believe. Age in China is very uncertain. In the south-western corner of the city there is what is known as the Temple of Heaven. It is a Confucian temple. The Chinese are largely Confucians or Buddhists. The Buddhists worship idois, while the Confucians do not. The Ruperor worships in this temple annually. In the center of the temple is a tablet with inscriptions on it to the powers of heaven. The Emperor comes here in the time of the Winter Solatice. Last Winter he was sick, and sent a delegation to perform the worship for him. The building is a very beautiful one in its outline and in its design, but is very much neglected. Indeed, you find almost all tue temples in China in a tumble-down condition, although cocasionally you see one which has just been renovated. This railing is remarkable, and every pillar here is covered with very elaborate bas reliefs. where the foot-passengors walk. Between the side

CHINESE SCIENCE. The Chinese have been astronomers longer than we have. We have observations dating back 2,000 years, as position of the ecliptic. Their astronor pears, however, to have been very little more than record of events, until the Empire was conquered about about the desired results. The Peking photograph will show the planet at a slightly different position from the New-Zealand one. If then the photographs can be made with sufficient accuracy, we can by measuring the distance from the center of these images to the center of the sun, determine the distance of the sun. It is difficult to get a hard, sharp edge, because the sun gives as much less light upon that portion of the surface; and then besides there is always more or less distortion of the image; and, take it altogether, it is questionable—although I am sanguine—whether better results can be got from photographs than from the observations of contact. I must say further that two systems of photographing have been employed. In one the arrangement is simply placed at the end of the telescope, pointed directly toward the sun, the image being magnified; and in that case there is always a considerable amount of distortion, and what is worse it is impossible to determine precisely what point is morth from the center. You can get important information without knowing that but to get information without knowin A. D. 1800 or 1350 by a new monarch, who brought with

excel the Chinese. The observing chair runs around the circular pier precisely in the same way as the ob-serving chair in the Cambridge domes runs around there.

AN EXCURSION IN THE VICINITY. We started out one day, in Chinese style, to see the wall, about a dozen of us going. The universal vehicle in Northern China is by the Pektur cart, which is an arrangement which deserves to be recorded in history. I shall never forget it. It is nothing but a New-England ex-cart, with two wheels, without springs, a butcher's wagon mounted on the axie. There is no seat. You sit on the bettem, or he there, and Jam your-self in with what bedding you take from Cona, for it is necessary to take that and your provision with you. After a while a man by dint of practice can squeeze in so that he does not break in course of transit. In those vohicles you can imagine how excessively uncomfortable it was to travel, but yet one who wishes to go about in Northern China must take them. We went first to the Baddinst Tample. Its has relief sculpture is the only fine piece of Chinese carving in existence. The whole firstory of the life of Buddha is engraved on the wall. The temple is very imposing, and is about 20 feet in high!, and with a gilded ball at the summit. You have the same thing with the Honorary gateway. Another view gives you the memorable trees. No ons knows the age of the trees. The Llama Buddhists acknowledge the artaority of the Grand Llama to the death, and he is very much like the Pope to the Roman Catholices; while the Monrolian Buddhists, who answer in some degree to the Protestants, do not acknowledge any head. The grounds of their temple he outside the city, and are very well kept.

Leaving these, we passed to the tombs of the Emperore. You know the Chinese have the greatest reverence for their ancestors, and take all pains to preserve it. There are but two dynasties—the Ming dynasty, and the present raling dynasty. The tombs would have been destroyed long before this only that the present party came in by suppressing a rebellion which had aiready caused the extinction of the Mings. The last monarch of the Mings committed suicine, and the Mings tombs consequently remain in their giory. These Tombs, or which there are some 13 or 14, are approached by a long avenue some three-quarters of a mile in length. Here, again, are the statues of the warriors. Everything you arrangement which deserves to be recorded in history I shall never forget it. It is nothing but a New-England

this wall. The mountains are some 3,000 of 5,000 to give light.

Coming to the great wall about the 26th or 27th of October, we found the ground covered with snow. As you approach the road becomes impracticable and we are obliged to resort to donkeys. This wall was built some 200 years before the Christian era, and it varies from 20 to 30 feet high, being 30 or 40 feet wide upon the top of the parapet, with a complete passage from one end to the other over it, with a gate-way tower. Later we departed for the scene of our operations.

THE TRANSIT OBSERVATIONS. We waited, of course, with great anxiety for the event. Along toward the time of the transit it developed a very unpleasant habit of clouding up in the day-time. Very frequently about 9 or 10 o'clock clouds would come on, and it would be almost impossible to see anything. On the right before the transit it was very tright and clear, so be almost impossible to see any initial declar, so that we obtained observations in the evening, and then again in the merning from 4 to 6 o'clock, and were on hand at the station long before the transit began. The first transit would occur about 8 o'clock, however, while we were making our last arrangements clouds began to show themselves, as they had done occasionally before, and before 9 o'clock the clouds were so dense that it became evident for one thing that the spectroscope I brought from Dartmouth College at Hanover would be of very little use.

It was like drawing a tooth to give it up. We went on with our preparations until just near the time of the transit, and then found that the sectional elrealt, which had never given us any trouble before, had declined to work. An investigation afterword showed that it was broken by a water-carrier who had driven his water-cart over the place where the wires bassed, only an inch or two under ground, and cut it of completely; so that one was obliged to go in and note three with the chronein-

the place where the wires passed, only an inth of two under ground, and cut it off completery; so that one was obliged to go in and note times with the chronometer. At the time of the first contact, however, we were able to see through the clouds better, I really think, than if the clouds had not been there, because the clouds, by cutting off the intense heat of the sun, prevented a disturbance of the atmosphere. At the time of the first contact the clouds had increased in thickness, but at the time of the second contact, half an hour later, we got very satisfactory of observations, the two observers agreeing within a few seconds of each other. We did not see anything at all of the "black drop." The telescope and position were good, and the light not too strong. A little effect was produced by the atmosphere of the planet, which gave ise to some unexpected phenomena. Within half an hour after the second contact, we thought we were going to see no more. The clouds became so dense that we had to stop observations. Up to that there we had been photographing steadily. Part of the time we would get a picture, and part of the time we would get a picture, and part of the time we would not; but we would get hough the form of making pictures. About half of the plates exposed showed pictures on them, and we had short 30 metures, of which some 15 were good. When go through the form of making pictures. About haif of the plates exposed showed pictures on them, and we had about 30 pictures, of which some 15 were good. When the clouds became very thick and we were a very crest-false party of astronomers, I can tell you. But very soon a portion of clear sky appeared in the north-west, and it became evident that we should see the end of the transit. When the clear sky came the air was flied with dust, and in about half an hour after the transit was over it would have been impossible to see across the room. The clear sky came, and we were enabled to photograph with very satisfactory results.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS. Our observations, compared with those of the Frenc. and Russians, were exceedingly satisfactory. We were obliged to work under unfortunatu and almost disas trons circumstances, and yet we need not be ashamed of our result when compared with those of other expeditions. We obtained 100 pictures, of which a dozen or only in obtaining 13 good pictures. In other places, their fortones were better, or worse, according to circumstances. In the Southern hemishere you know more of the results than I do, for I have met very few of the observers. Some of them are good, others are bad. I recently met a member of the expedition at Now-Caledonia, and he said they had very good fortune indeed, for they obtained 150 pictures. In coming down the coast from Pezing we saw the German party. They had very good success indeed. If we had stayed at Yokohama, we should probably have had better results, for that has proved to be the best, paint of observation so far as I know. And now as to the outcome of the whole. I would say, without being unfair, that the results of the Peking party, in combination with those of the New Laland party, are more accurate and will be productive of more good than those of any of the other parties; and when you examine the results of the cyclitions of other nations, the Americans have great reason to be satisfied with the expeditions of the in Government. There is no dount that the whole outcome will add more accuracy to our knowledge of the sun's distance.

will add more accuracy to our knowledge of the sun's distance.

I imagine that the results will not be worked up as fully as they ought to be until eight years from now, when the next transit of Venus takes place. That is a very important transit, as it is to be visible all along the Atlantic coast. By that time there will be many men who will be able to do much better work them has been done during this transit. And there are a number of things which will be looked into eight years hence, and when that work is done and combined with the present, we shall be in a condition to approximate very nearly to the sun's distance. Thanking you fer your kind attention, I now close. [Applause.]

At the regular meeting last evening of the Municipal Reform Association at No. 43 South Washing ton-square, a lecture was delivered by Abraham L. Earle, Deputy Controller, upon the subject, "Forty millions a year-where the money comes from and how it is spent." His remarks referred very directly to the various departments of the city, the expenditures of which, and the occasion for the same-in many instances. he asserted, without a shadow of pretense-he stated in detail, giving facts and figures that he argued were beyond dispute. He suggested that retrenchment in most of the departments could easily be brought about could political interference be entirely dispensed with. He argued that taxation was most unequally borne; that the one half were taxed for the expenses of the other half, and that the association had a work to perform in equalizing this. His concluding remarks were favorable to the course of Controller Green in his discharge of his official duties. At the conclusion of his address Mr. Farr proposed to offer a series of resolutions to the effect that in Controller Green the city had an officer who stood like a rock against all evil attacks, one whose course should meet the approval of all who held the interest of the city at heart. Further remarks were made by William O. Bourne and by the presiding officer, both approving the argument of the lecturer. It was announced before the adjournment of the meeting that on March 18 the subject would be further considered, and that, at that time, the operations either of the Department of Charities and Correction or of Public Works would be brought before the association and facts of great interest made public. other half, and that the association had a work to per-

THE CAUSE OF A DREADFUL DEATH UNCERTAIN About two weeks ago, Jacob Stockvis of No. 1,961 Third-ave., disappeared from his home, and his friends searched for him until Monday morning when be returned home. He had been an inmate of the Peniton tiary for 10 days under sentence by a Police Justice fo alleged intemperance. He was terribly bruised about the face, arms, and legs when he returned home, and told an indistinct story of having been put in the same cell in the Tombs with a maniae who was suffering from delirium tremens, and of being beaten by the madmar in his frenzy. Dr. Hirsch of No. 125 East Pifty-fourth-st. a brother-in-law of Stockvis, had the injured man brought to his house for treatment, but he died on Mon-day night, the same day that he returned. Coroner Kessier began as investigation restorday, and Deputy Coroner Cushman made a post-mortem examination, which disclosed a variety of dreadful tem examination, which|disclosed a variety of dreadful bruises over the eye, nose, forehead, eyms, and leg. The right arm was greatly swellen, and infiltrated through-out its length with pas. Subsoute softening of the left he misphere of the brain was found on opening the skull. Dr. Cushman concluded that death had resulted from anhaustion produced by extensive suppuration of the left arm. A jury was impaceled, and an inquest will be held at an early day.

Deputy Warden Fulsy of the Tembe said that no such escurrence as the besting of a prisoner in a cell has

taken place in that institution. He would have heard of it either through the cries of the victim or the reports of the surgeons next morning. The prison list since Feb. 9 showed no such name as Stockvis or Legrand, the latter being a name some time assumed by the deceased. The relatives of Stockvis state he was partly insane, and had occasionally wandered away from home, but he was aiways harmless in his worst moods.

INVESTIGATING THE ST. ANDREW'S DIS-

CONTINUATION OF THE INQUEST - TESTIMONY OF

THE OWNER OF THE SHAW BUILDING. The inquest in the St. Andrew's Church disaster was continued by Coroner Eickhoff yesterday.

John J. Donohue of No. 15 City Hail-place, one of the wounded persons, testified that he was in the east gallery when the wall fell in, sitting next to Michael McCarty, who was killed, and near James Quinn, who still remains in Park Hospital severely injured. He described the scene at the time the walls fell in, and said that he had been afraid the wail might fall at any moment after the fire in Shaw's store. Lydia Gillen of No. 27 Park-st., who appeared with her face and head bandsged, and Sarat E. Reddican of No. 29 Dune-st. told similar stories.

James M. Shaw of No. 130 East Sixtieth-st., proprietor

of the building at No. 25 Duane st., the wall of which

fell on the church, testified that the building took fire

on the morning of Jan. 12. After the fire was extinguished, he noticed that the west wall was cracked in three places, between the windows of the sixth story and the roof. He noticed no buiging of the walls. The other walls were apparently in good condition. Witness directed him to take entire charge and do whatever was necessary, as witness knew nothing about building and his mind was in a disturbed state in consequence of the fire. Mr. Snook took charge, and everything was done by his direction. Brown & Adams, a firm of contractors, were directed to shore up everything according to the direction of the Inspectors of Buildings. Witness received a notice from the Superintendent of Buildings on Jan. 14, dated Jan. 13. It was sent to Mr. Snook the same day, and witness again urged and authorized him to do whatever was necessary in the matter. Witness thought Mr. Snook bac employed Brown & Adams to shore up the walls before he sent his answer to the Superintendent. Men whom the witness considered competent had assured him that the work of strengthening and repairing was going on all night. The insurance authorities had charge of the building from the time of the fire until either Jan. 26 or Jan. 29. The witness had two or three interviews with the officers of the companies in which he was insured in regard to the amount of damage. What had been done before these interviews was done with a view to make the building safe until it had been decided whether the companies or the witness would rebuild. According to the specifications of the new rebuild. According to the specifications of the new contract for the rebuilding of the store, three stories were to come down. The contract was given by Mr. Snock to Mr. Titus, who had originally erected the building in 1861 or 1862. In ordinary weather, the witness thought he would not have been afraid to sleep in the church, if it had been his dwelling-house, but during a squall or a gale of wind he would not have been willing. At the time the walls fell work was going on according to the contract. New beams were being put in, and they were about ready to begin taking down the wall. The wall next to Sweeny's Hotel had been cut for the new 15 seen's Hotel had been cut for the per three stories of the wall, as the building had to be made very strong. The goods to be stored in it were very heavy, and the building was often so crowded that there was scarcely room to slore another package in it. Witness feit unwilling to trust any wall which had been subjected to such sreat heat as his had been. He had never heard it stated that the walls were not thick enough. The wall which fell was perfect in every respects before the fire. It was painted last Fail, and then was found to be perfect. The witness had had no communication with the Fire Department at the time of the fire or since. The only notice be received from any of the authorities was from the Department of Buildings. Witness did not give any personal directions to Brown & Adams about shoring. They were never limited to any amount in expenditares. They were never limited to any amount in expenditares. They were never limited to any amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to say amount in expenditares. They were never limited to contract for the rebuilding of the store, three stories

Francis Burse, forenan of Legine Company so, testified that he was in the church immediately after the disaster. He made his entrance through the City Hall place side, and saw the crowd rushing toward the front cutrance. He climbed into the gatiery and pulled several persons from uncer the rubbish which had failen on them. Hugh Bonner, Chief of Batallion of the Fire Department, gave substantially the same testimony. He said that the safeguard of the stairway was taken tie said that the safeguard of the stairway was taken lown by Capt. Rediey and his men, and the people who were junmed in on the stairs were then enabled to step ato the vestibale. A number of them were doubtless has saved from being crushed to death. The inquest was then adjourned until this morning.

A DESCRIPTE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-MURDER. A remarkable suicide took place near Paterson last evening. While the Oswego express train of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway, due at Hoboken at 9:43 p. m., yesterday was ruuning at the rate of thirty tailes an hour, one of the pas Patrick Berkley of Fall River, Conn., who was accompanied by his young wife and two small children, sud dealy jumped up and rushed for the rear platform of the car. He was followed by his wife, who endeavored to detain him. Berkley shook her endeavored to detain him. Berkley shook her off, and gaining the platform, stepped down one step, when he was seized by Frank Benjamin, one of the brakemen. The man succeeded in breaking loose and with a wild shrick leaped off. The train was stopped and Berkley was found lying between the double tracks, with his skull crushed in but still alive. He was brought to Hoboken and sent to St. Mary's Hospital, but it was deemed impossible for him to survive the night. Berkley was a miner, about 30 years of age, and, with his wife and children, had been on a visit to relatives in Oswego. He was considerably under the influence of liquor, and just previous to committing the act, told his wife that he would kill himself. The conductor of the train had the unfortunate wife and children provided for at a hotel.

ANOTHER STEAMER AGROUND.

The steamship Richmond of the Old Dominion line, while engaged in conveying freight to this city from Baltimore, went ashore yesterday at the mouth of the Patapsco River. The officers of the Company in this city stated that they thought the vessel would get off without any difficulty. At the office of the Coast Wreckwithout any dimenty. At the onice of the Coast Wreck-ing Company, the statement was made that there would be no necessity for the use of any of their vesses, as the Richmond was lying in a very easy position within the bay and beyond the reach of any surf or dangerous swell. The bottom is soit and muddy, and the opinion was expressed that the Richmond would be gotten of at the next high tide. Her position is very much like that of the Parthis which grounded on Ellis's Island.

COMMITTEES OF THE EMIGRATION COMMISSION At a meeting of the Commissioners of Emigration yesterday, the President, Mr. Geo. J. Forrest, who was elected at the last meeting for the year 1875, announced the Committees for the year, as follows :

announced the Committees for the year, as follows:
On Castle Garden—Commissioners Hurburt, Schack, Lynch, Starr, and Mayor Wiesham.
On Ward's Island—Commissioners Quintard, Lynch, Schack, Stephenson, and Mayor.
On Finance—Commissioners Manjer, Hurburt, Schack, Lynch, and Mayor Wiesham.
It was resolved that the special Committee appointed to draw up the memorial to be presented to the Legislature, consisting of Commissioners Hurburt, Lynch, Schack, and the Mayor, be requested to report what action they have taken in the matter to the Board at the next meeting.

SALE OF PAINTINGS.

The auction sale of the collection of paintings which have been on exhibition during the past fortnight at the art gallery at No. 845 Broadway, began last evening. The attendance was not very large, but the bidding was active. The owner reserved a right to one bid for each picture, and several of the paintings were laid by in default of prices considered equal to were laid by in default of prices considered equal to their value. These pictures will be put up again this evening. Among those sold last evening were "The Toilet," by V. Gilbert of Paris, \$195; "Grand Cana: at Venice," by A. Pollentine of London, \$155; "The Con-versation," by Ortego of Rome, \$130; "Dieppe," by Kuwasseg of Paris, \$115; "Ruins of the Tempie of Philae on the Nile," by F. D. Briscoe of Philadelphia, \$83; "Re-turning from the Pair," by J. Turner, London, \$110; "After the Shower," by A. Bennett, London, \$10.

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE SUPERNUMERARIES. The additional changes in the working force at the Custom-bouse will probably take place in a few days. There is considerable dissatisfaction among the employés who have been discharged, as they believe that they have been selected because of their limited political influence. Included in the number of dis-charged employée are ten inspectors, among whom are Mesers. Robinson, Davidson, Woodbury, Weaver, and

CHICAGO, March 2,-Patrick Hassett, charged by his son, Daniel Hassett, with the murder of a man whose body was found in the South Branch of the Chicago River three years are, had a preliminary exam-ination to-day, and was held for the Criminal Court without hall; also his son. The latter testified more HOME NEWS.

TREEMOMETER, TESTERDAY, AT HUDNUTS, IN BROAD WAY 9 a m.-28° Noon-35° 3 n. m.-42° Midnight-27°.

NEW-YORK CITY. The Chamber of Commerce will hold a regular

monthly meeting to-morrow at 1 o'clock. The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor of the Twenty-first Ward, during the month of Pebraary, re-lieved \$12 families and expended \$1,624.

The managers of the Amateur Concert, given or Peb. 19, in aid of St. John's Guila, have, through Mrs. John D. Tewns-ens, sent to the Guild \$648, as the profits of the entertainment.

The annual report of the Pilot Commissioners containing the amounts received for fines, the number of reesels boarded, and other statistics, was sent resterday to the Legislature, by order of the Board.

The Senior Class of Columbia College Law School holds a meeting this evening for the purpose of choosing a valedictorism and presentation orator and of making suitable arranguments for the Commencement which occurs in May.

The rumor that the Governor had concurred in the removal of the Pire Commissioners was again circulated resterday.

Mayor Wickbam said he had received no intelligence on the subject.

Bity Chamberlain Toppan has collected from banks for interest on the
February deposits, \$2,825,60.

The Executive Committee of the New-York State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry met at the International Hotel, in Park-place, restenday. They will remain in session to-day for the purpose of making and renewing contracts with manufacturers, mercuants, and others for the benefit of the Order. The immigration for the month of February was

decidedly in advance of the previous month and larger than had been predicted. The arrivals at Castle Garien numbered 3.704, an increase of 671 over the corresponding month last year. The steamaning Cellic of the White Star Line year-city landed 228 immigrants at Castle The billiard exhibition for the benefit of the

The Dilliard exhibition for the Deheilt of the Cuban sufferers last light was a financial failure, not more than 200 bersons being present. Three ordinary games of billiards, displaying little shill, were played, and there were exhibitions of fancy shorts by fladolphe and Usassy, some of which were of a very interesting character; but on the whost the performance was a failure.

The Republicans of the XIII Assembly District heid a meeting hat evening at No. 201 East Pourth-at, A. Watts presiding. The main business of the meeting was to find means to compel members in bad standing to pay their arrears. A motion was made, but not carried, to order all office-holders belonging to the organization to pay one per cent of their salaries.

The sudden thaw of yesterday was productive of perils. One of the most common sights about the city was the failing of heavy iccles from housetops and long spears of ice from telegraph wires, which came swiitly down on the persons of tedestrians, or burned themselves with a thost neonvenent soon-busis. In many cases the weight and velocity of these darks made them somewhat dangerous.

The Central Body of the German Property Owners held a meeting last evening at the Pree German School in Fourth-st, at which F. Trand presided. It was resolved to draft and forward a protect The store of E. Ludvigh, imperter of fine laces, on

the second four of No. 733 Broadway, was entered by burglars on Monday night, the four locks with which his door to the hall was secured being all broken. The door of a Herring safe in which Mr. Ludwich kept about \$15,000 worth of the most expensive laces was partly broken open, when the burglars were apparently alarmed and departed. They managed to secure in their retreat, however, Llams shawls, point are handkereniefs, and jewelry, amounting in value to \$3,000. It is reported that the Atalanta Boat Club of this

city contemplate sending a crew to England next Summer to try a contest with the Englishmen. It is expected that the crew will be composed of better material that any ever sent before from this country.

Two of the men to compose the processed four-cared crew would be probably Gunster, captain and struke of the Williams College crew fast year, and Bustis, who held the same position in the crew which represent the The Spring trade sale of books, it is now definitely

settled will open Tuesday, March 30, with the involces of James B. Osgood & Co. and G. P. Petnam's Sons; on the second day involces

at the library at Second-ave, and Eleventh-st. last evening. The Treas-urer's report acknowledged the receipt of a valuable manuscript and also some autographs from Philidelphia, among which is the signature also some autographs from Fulldelphia, amay which is the signature of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Librarian, George H. Moore, read a paper written by W. J. Habard of Virgonia on the inteness of Washington as painted by Staart, Peale, and others. Staart's painting was said to be the only true itsness of Washington, and it was stated that three attempts were made before a suitable representator was obtained. The Rev. Dr. Osgood was excited a life member of the Society.

An appeal for aid for a poor, almost homeless, fam-

An appear for any for a possible two days ago. The case was investigated, and in a garret at No. 129 Willetest, occupying a room baruly large enough for one person, a pale, sickly woman, her epileptic husband, and three very young children were found. The busband, with every deaire for work, young children were found. The basedon, with Very water for who could find none, and had earned nothing for four months. The wife, between the care of her husband and family and her had health, could do nothing; the children, the cidest 7 years old, were too young to be of any assistance. A charatable physician prescribed for the man, but the medicares were too expensive to be often obtained. In addition to troubles from sickness and honger, the rest of the family was overdue, and they were hable to be turned out into the streets. BROOKLYN.

During the month of February Hack Inspector Jones received \$893 50 for Eccuses.

The patent alarm and registration clock was wint and Myrtie-ave, line of care vesterday,

The case of Henry C. Bowen against The Brookon Engle has been postponed until the April Term of the City Court. Messrs. Kingsley and Keevey, the contractors who nave built the new reservoir, at Hempstead, have been awarded by a coard of arbitration \$100,000 for carring dirt from the work. Richard Lyons, residing at No. 715 Third-ave., attempted to commit suicide last evening by cutting the main artery in his arm with a jack-knife. Lyone, who is 55 years old, was intericated

The Board of Education yesterday passed a resolution appointing seven of its members as a committee to investigate the differences existing between Thomas W. Field, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thomas Kinsella, a member of the Board and editor of The Brooklyn Engle.

Detectives Butts and Williams last night found Emma B. Bird-all, age 17, who was some weeks ago entired from her father's house at No. 548 Kent-ave., at No. 49 Fourth-st., New-York, at the house of a Mrs. Spencer. William J. Elden, a livery stable keeper in DeKalb-ave., is accused of seducing the girl from her house and habeas corpus proceedings in the Brooklyn City Court were pen b

KOSLYN.—A CHIED BRIFED BALLY, IVING BEEZ the Long Island Railroad depot, was, on Saturday afternoon, left also my the house white her mother visited a neighbor. The fire got lew and and child attempted to renew it when her clother cample fire, and she was almost instantiv a veloped in fisance. She ran into the street screaming for assistance: her mother, who was only a short distance away, heard her, and runting to her insistence succeeded in artinguishing the fire, burning herself hadly. The child was so terribly burned that she disc

ing with a view to recover her. She was returned to her parentaled might.

LONG ISLAND.

ROSLYN.-A child named Katie Daly, living near

Love Island City.—The Queens County Democratic General ComLove Island City.—The Queens County Democratic General Compoint, John H. Sutphin of Jamaica in the chair. A motion was carned
that a Committee from each town in Queens County be appointed in
calect a committee to meet Associbiymen Oakley on March 0 as Hunter's
Point, and take necessary steps for the appointment of neumarators less
the taking of the census.

Manpays.—William H. Pauman, the well-known troot breeder, has
suffered severely by the late rains. A large accumulation of ice is his
pona, loosened by the freshet, swept away the dam, and teest to the
value of several thousand dollars were lost.

New-Dorp .- A man named Hyadal was early yes-

NEW-DORP.—A man named Hyadal was early yesterday morning found dead in bed, at his residence on the Conner'sNew-mill Road. Mr. Hyadal was about 55 years old, and was apparently in his assai health the day before. He was a rettred merchant,
having been engaged in the importance of Swoulab iron. He was aisolargely engaged in grape culture on the island.

Gipponn's Stration.—Coroner Loa of Stapleton was yesterday called
to hold an inquest upon the body of Mrs. Kinabeth Recland, who was
killed on Monday by being run over by a train on the States Island
Railbed. It appears that the deceased resided at Annadais Station,
and when the down-train from Tottenville was nearine thin place, the
engineer as wher coming up through a culturit, about 200 jeet shead of
the locomotive. Brakes were whistled down, but not in time to stop
the train; the wheels of the locomotive passed over her, cutting of serhead and mutitating her body. The Coroner's Jury remoured a vertical
of accidental death.

Tonykinyticks.—The Richmond County Republican Central Com-

TONYKINSVILLE.—The Richmood County Republican Central Committee held a regular monthly meeting yesterday at the Union Hotel, a committee of five, one from each town, was appointed to report a new sais of representation for the election of members of the committee. NEW-JERSEY.

JERSEY CITY .- The Board of Public Works at the meeting restorday received a communication from the Hoboten Water Commissioners, complaining that through the abandonment of the 20inch drain on Hoboken-ave., the supply of water has been inadequate to the demand....Richard Sadler and D. W. Gordon of the Third Precises

such drain on Hobeken-are. the supply of water has been massequate to the demand... Richard Sadler and D. W. Gordon of the Third Precinch Police were held yesterday charged with assaulting and besting William O'Keefe, wom they arrested for druakenness... The Board of Adecimen last secuing passed two important resolutions, the draft was the concurrent resolution of the Board of Works providing for the city's portion of the work on the proposed bridge at the foots of Washingtonst. The second resolution memerializes the Legislature in favor of the Mill Creek Snip Canal project now before the Legislature. The second trial of Michael Hessilis for an outrage committed on Mrs. Mary Ang-Gurney resolutely extended yin a verdict of guilty. Hessilis was immediately entirely entered to guilty. Hessilis was immediately entered to the second trial of Michael Hessilis for an outrage committed on Mrs. Mary Ang-Gurney resolutely extended yin a verdict of guilty. Hessilis was immediately entered to the second second trial of Michael Hessilis for an outrage committed on Mrs. Mary Ang-Gurney resoluted to the Second Se

Police Wambolt that he must close the drivking aslooms on Sunnays.

PRINCHTON.—The class of 1875 of Princeton Colleve has selected the following to participate in the exercises of class day: Master of Ceremonies, J. H. Pennewell of Delaware; clisss Orsior, L. Karge, New-York; J. C. Sanger, C. San

RELIZABETH.—Thomas B. Leggest resigned from the City Council of Monday night, and was nominated by the Mayor and confirmed as Constroller in place of Heary Aitken. ORANGE.—The Common Council met on Monday night, and the re-ports of the Police Marshal, Chief-Engineer, and Overseer of the Poses

At the Tombs Police Court vesterday, Sarah Campbell was belt in \$500 bail for stealing \$5 from Law Errickson of a bouse at No. 129 fleater-st....John Lanfield was best for keeping # policy-shop at No. 387's Water-st. | Ausugecemente. |

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